

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 5, 10-11 and 18-19 were canceled by the foregoing amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-17 and 20 are pending in the application.

Drawings

Figures 2A-C and 3A-C were objected to because of the informalities identified in the Office Action. The informalities are corrected by the attached replacement sheets. Please note that Applicant has provided clearer versions of the referenced SEM digital images, because it is believed that these better represent the aspects of the invention described in the specification than a simple black and white drawing. Applicant believes that these images are easily reproducible and are consistent with other digital images published. However, if the Examiner has further objections Applicant will furnish black and white drawings. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this objection. Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests approval to new Fig. 2D as discussed above

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 5, 13, 14 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been amended in this manner, and accordingly these claims and all remaining

dependent claims should now be allowable Acknowledgment of same is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bennett (U.S. Patent No. 5,165,243). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over by Bennett (U.S. Patent No. 5,165,243). Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicant has amended the claims to place all pending claims in condition for allowance, as noted above. Although Applicant has amended the claims to expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, Applicant does not concede the Examiner's allegations regarding the teachings of Bennett or its application as to Applicants claimed combinations, as alleged in the Office Action.

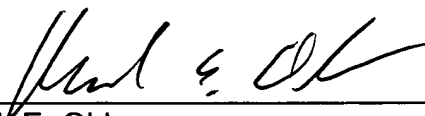
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

Reply to Office Action dated March 11, 2005

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-3136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
Olds, Maier & Richardson, PLLC



Mark E. Olds
Registration No. 46507

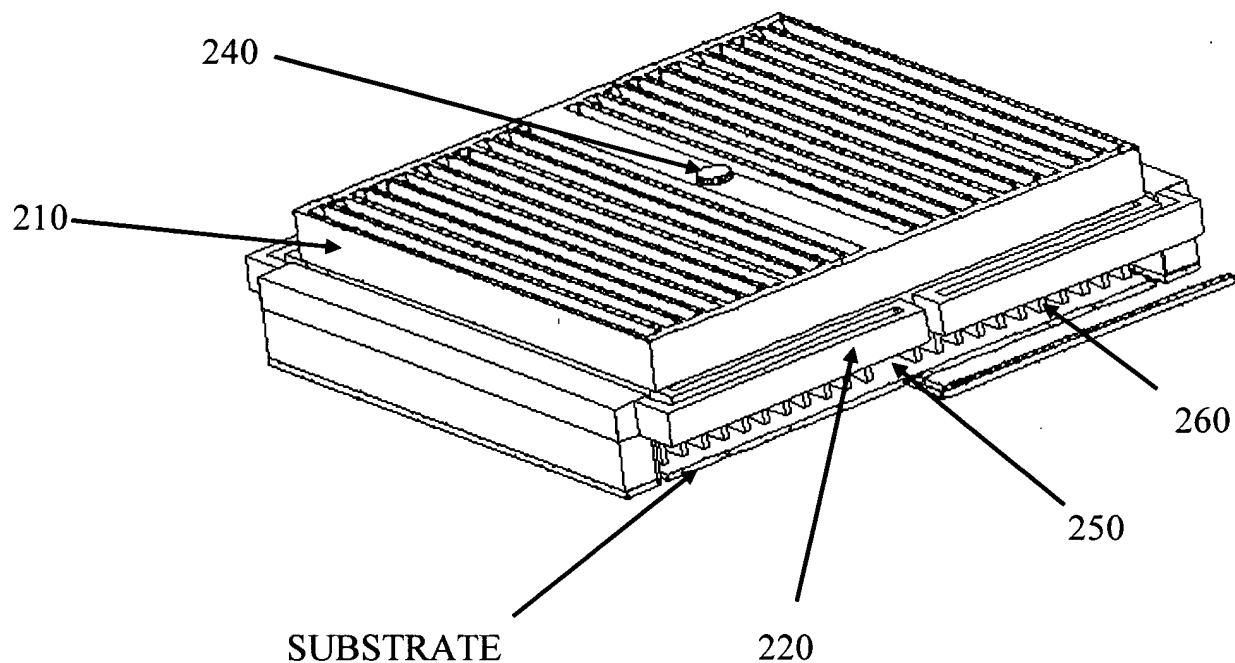
128 North Pitt Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314
1.703.740.8322

Date:

Attachment(s): (2) Replacement Drawing Sheets

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings include redrawn Figs. 1, 2A-C, and 3A-C. These sheets replace the original sheet including Figs. 1, 2A-C, and 3A-C. Additionally, Applicant would also like to add an additional Fig. 2D (see below) that illustrates an alternate view of Fig. 2A without the plate 230. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter would be added and would require only minor amendments to the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests approval to add this additional figure.



Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1/3 and 2/3